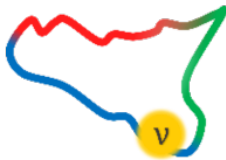


The first neutrino mass limit of HOLMES

Sara Gamba

On behalf of HOLMES collaboration

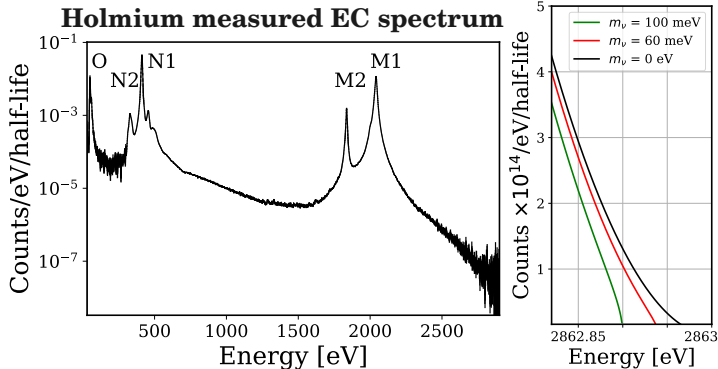
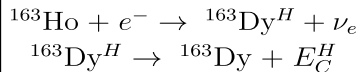
June 23rd 2025



The HOLMES experiment

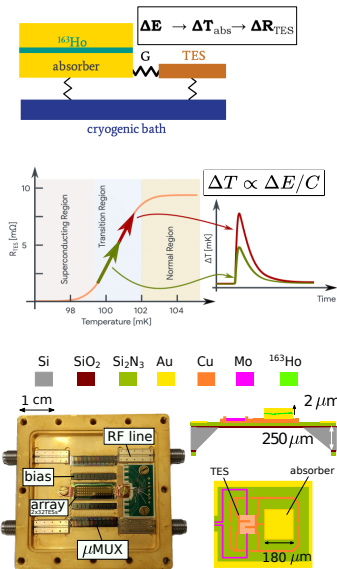
- ▶ Measuring the **neutrino mass** is of crucial importance;
- ▶ **Model-independent** method: energy conservation;
- ▶ KATRIN best limit: $m_\nu < 0.45$ eV 90% C.L. (^3H source outside the detector);
- ▶ **HOLMES**: ^{163}Ho source embedded inside the detector.

Holmium electron capture:



Experimental setup

- ▶ **HOLMES** is an experiment located in Milano-Bicocca laboratories;
- ▶ **Low temperature** (~ 60 mK) **microcalorimeters**;
- ▶ ^{163}Ho implanted **Transition Edge Sensors** each coupled to a gold absorber;
- ▶ Multiplexed TES 64-pixel array (~ 0.3 Bq/pixel);
- ▶ $\Delta E_{FWHM} \in [5, 7]$ eV;
- ▶ Gradual approach based on **scalability** for an experiment with 0.1 eV m_ν sensitivity.



The ROI fit

- Bayesian parameter estimation;
- Poisson likelihood and a modeled spectrum;
- Posterior explored using Hamiltonian MCMC via STAN;
- Q : free parameter.

Spectrum @ ROI [2250,3500] eV:

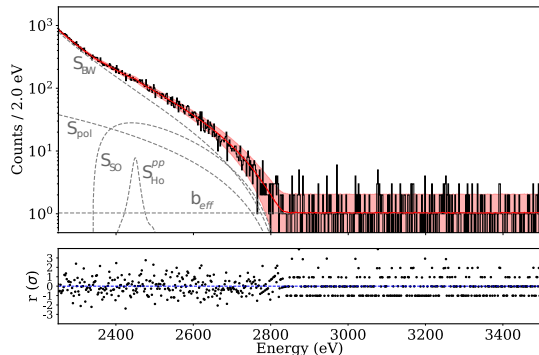
$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{exp}} = \left[N_{\text{tot}} \left(\mathcal{S}_{\text{Ho}} + f_{\text{eff}}^{pp} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Ho}}^{pp} \right) \right] * \mathcal{R}_{\text{eff}} + b_{\text{eff}}$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{Ho}} \approx k_0 (k_{\text{BW}} \mathcal{S}_{\text{BW}} + k_{\text{SO}} \mathcal{S}_{\text{SO}} + \mathcal{S}_{\text{pol}}) \times \mathcal{F}_{\text{PS}}$$

\mathcal{F}_{PS} : phase space, only term with m_β

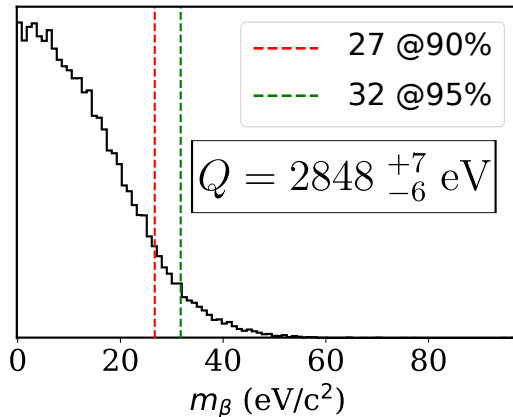
$$\propto (Q - E) \sqrt{(Q - E)^2 - m_\beta^2}$$

Measured and fitted spectrum @ROI



The neutrino mass limit

- ▶ With 15 Bq, 48 channels, 2 months, we established $m_\beta < \mathbf{27\text{ eV}/c^2}$ (90% CI);
- ▶ **Most stringent bound** on m_β ever obtained from EC decay of ^{163}Ho ;
- ▶ m_β posterior distribution:



Conclusions

- ▶ HOLMES performs a **calorimetric** measurement of ^{163}Ho EC spectrum in a **cryogenic** environment;
- ▶ The result on m_β ($< 27 \text{ eV}/c^2$ (90% CI)) confirms the **feasibility** of the method;
- ▶ Future **scaling** of the experiment aims to reach **sub-eV sensitivity**;
- ▶ **HOLMES+**: next-gen neutrino experiment module under development.

Thank you for your attention!

Scan the QR code to read our **new article**:

"Most stringent bound on
electron neutrino mass
obtained with a scalable
low temperature micro-
calorimeter array"

